

## PROGRAM UPDATE



**April 23, 2014**

*The Colorado Department of Health Care Policy and Financing (Department) continues to accept attestations for the Colorado Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. In Program Year 2012, more than **\$63 million** in incentive payments were made to eligible health care professionals and hospitals for the adoption, implementation or upgrade (AIU) and Meaningful Use (MU) of certified EHR technology and payments for Program Year 2013 already total more than **\$36 million**.*

### **Program Year 2014 Update**

The Colorado Registration & Attestation System (CO R&A) is not yet open and will not open until mid-May 2014 at the earliest for Program Year 2014 (PY2014). A notice will be sent when the CO R&A is available for 2014 attestations.

In the meantime, visit CORHIO's Meaningful Use pages for [Eligible Hospitals](#) (EH) and [Eligible Professionals](#) (EP) for updates to 2014 workbooks and other useful tools.

### **New! Recorded Webinar for Attesting to Adopt, Implement or Upgrade in Program Year 2014**

Due to numerous changes to the EHR Incentive Program in PY2014, CORHIO has recorded an updated webinar on how to attest to AIU in the CO R&A with new tips and tricks to help you navigate the program.

The Department has decided to eliminate a couple of required documents from previous program years, so this webinar will outline those changes along with expanded definitions of eligible encounters and instructions on how to best fill out workbooks.

To view this webinar, click <http://bcove.me/06bulzhz>.

### **HIMSS Event – Beyond Stage One Meaningful Use Education**

HIMSS is hosting a free event targeted at EPs and their office staff on Thursday, May 8, 2014 at the Denver Marriott Tech Center. At the event, experts will provide an overview of Meaningful Use Stage 2, including an in-depth look at the Clinical Quality Measures. For more information and to register, click [here](#).

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### **New FAQ! – GEN-12 Attesting to MU in Year 1**

*Question: Do I need to attest to AIU in my first year or can I skip it and attest to MU?*

*Answer: No, you do not have to attest to AIU in your first year and can choose to attest to MU.*

Because Medicare eligible EPs and EHs need to attest to Meaningful Use in 2014 in order to avoid payment adjustments in 2015, many EHs and EPs that are attesting to the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program for the first time may choose to skip AIU and attest to MU in their first year. The CO R&A allows for this and will calculate the first year payment based not on whether or not you are attesting to AIU or MU, but based on which year it is for you in the program.

For EPs, this will still result in the \$21,250 payment (2/3 payment for Pediatricians at 20%) and for EHs, this will still be your 50% payment of your overall calculation.

Keep in mind that if you skip AIU, you cannot go back and do it later but must keep moving forward with MU. For more information on payment adjustments, click [here](#).

### **Updated Meaningful Use Core Objective for Program Year 2014**

In 2012, CMS introduced changes to Meaningful Use, Stage 1 for EPs and EHs that would take effect in PY2014. In addition to using a 2014 Certified EHR, the following Core Objective has changed:

- Patient Electronic Access (EP & EH)
  - EP – Provide patients the ability to view online, download, and transmit their health information within four (4) business days of the information being available to the EP with more than 50% of all unique patients
  - EH – Provide patients the ability to view online, download, and transmit information about a hospital admission within 36 hours of discharge for more than 50% of all unique patients discharged from inpatient or emergency departments (POS 21 or POS 23)

For more information on this objective and to see the full list of 2014 changes, you can review the CMS website's Stage 2 page (which includes Stage 1 changes). You can also download a concise list of the objectives for EPs and EHs [here](#) and [here](#), respectively.

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### *New Tools and Resources from CMS*

With the start of the 2014 payment year, CMS has created a few new tools and resources for EPs and EHs. These tools will help you navigate some of the changes made to the EHR Incentive Programs in 2014. In addition, the CMS [EHR Incentive Programs](#) website has many other tools and helpful information.

- [Guide for Eligible Professionals Practicing in Multiple Locations](#)
- [Stage 2 Meaningful Use Attestation Calculator](#)
- [What's New for Stage 1 in 2014](#)
- Updated [Payment Adjustments & Hardship Exceptions Tipsheet for Eligible Professionals](#)

### *Updated Anticipated Timeline – Colorado Medicaid EHR Incentive Program*

Event	Status/Expected Date
CO R&A System begins accepting Medicaid & Medicare Meaningful Use attestations	Now Open!
CO R&A System opens for EHs to attest to Meaningful Use for FFY 2013	Program Year is now closed
CO R&A System opens for EPs to attest to Meaningful Use for calendar year 2013	Program Year is now closed
First incentive payments issued to EPs who successfully attested to Medicaid Stage 1 Meaningful Use	Paid!
First incentive payments issues to EHs who successfully attested to Medicaid Stage 1 Meaningful Use	Paid!
CO R&A System opens for EHs to attest to Stage 1 and Stage 2 Meaningful Use for FFY 2014	Spring 2014
CO R&A System opens for EPs to attest to Stage 1 for calendar year 2014	Spring 2014

### *Medicaid Program Point of Contact and Partnerships*

The Department has partnered with CORHIO to provide program coordination and assist with provider communications and outreach regarding the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Coordinator will be the central point of contact for EPs, EHs, partners and other interested parties on requirements, processes and



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questions regarding the Medicaid EHR Incentive Program. The Medicaid EHR Incentive Program Coordinator, Tracy McDonald, can be reached at [MedicaidEHR@corhio.org](mailto:MedicaidEHR@corhio.org) or 720.285.3232.

Xerox (formerly Affiliated Computer Services) has been contracted by the Department to manage the Provider Outreach Page and to provide the Colorado R&A System, including the web portal through which eligible providers can register and attest to receive the EHR incentive payments.